

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /064 W

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O R 290828Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2504

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0534

FOR ATHERTON AND SCHAUFEL FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET US

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA

REF: A . STATE 019584 B. CAIRO 1262

1. DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE REGARDING DELIVERIES TO ETHIOPIA OF LIBYAN-SUPPLIED, SOVIET-ORIGIN WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, DESTINED FOR SUDANESE ANSAR REFUGEES. ONLY THING WE CAN ADD AT THIS POINT IS THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, RATHER THAN ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES, APPARENTLY HAS HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISPOSING OF SHIPMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN ADDIS FROM LIBYA. WE ALSO HAVE INDICATIONS THAT SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF LIBYAN-SUPPLIED ARMS HAS NOT BEEN RESHIPED OUT OF ADDIS, TO ANSARS OR ANYONE ELSE.

2. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH ANALYSIS PARAS 2-4 REFTEL THAT THERE IS NO REASON AND LITTLE EVIDENCE TO BELIEVE THAT ETHIOPIANS HAVE PROVIDED ANSARS WITH U.S. ORIGIN WEAPONS, BUT WE WOULD ALSO CAVEAT THAT WE CANNOT BE CATEGORIC ON SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH EPMG HAS

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BEEN LESS THAN SCRUPULOUS IN PROVIDING END-USE INFORMATION ON EXCESS WEAPON TRANSFER AGREEMENTS, TERRITORIAL ARMY AND MILITIA UNITS ARE STILL SO INADEQUATELY ARMED THAT THEY WOULD SEEM TO HAVE FIRST PRIORITY ON ANY WEAPONS THAT BECOME EXCESS TO ARMED FORCES. NEVERTHELESS, ONE GOVERNMENT SOURCE IN POSITION TO KNOW HAS JUST INDICATED TO EMBASSY OFFICER THAT EPMG HAD IN PAST PROVIDED ANSARS WITH USED ARMS OF YUGOSLAV, CZECHOSLOVAK, ITALIAN,

AND U.S. ORIGIN, I.E., WHATEVER SURPLUS BECAME AVAILABLE FROM ELSEWHERE IN ETHIOPIA. REPORT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CHECK OUT, BUT WE SHALL TRY.

3. ONE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION IS THAT, ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT EPMG ITSELF HAS NOT ARMED ANSARS WITH US WEAPONS, GIVEN CONFUSED MILITARY SITUATION IN BEGEMDIR REGION, IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT SOME ETHIOPIAN ARMY WEAPONS COULD HAVE ENDED UP IN ANSAR HANDS AS RESULT OF FORTUNES OF WAR. AGAIN WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF THIS, HOWEVER.
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NNN

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